



CHILD MARRIAGE AS A SOCIAL EVIL WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MAHESH DATTANI'S SELECTED PLAYS

Dr. ROHTASH (Department of English)

ABSTRACT

This paper deals with the disadvantages of child marriage in contemporary society. As you all know that child marriage is a common problem in our society. This paper throws light on a serious problem arising out of child marriage. The drama emerged as a remedy and awareness of this harsh treatment of family and society. There are many great plays composed by Mahesh Dattani from the family's point of view. The fault of child marriage falls on the whole family. The playwright shows how this affects the family and society. Child marriage has destroyed the growing life of child and wealth of a family. Child marriage should be completely banned and awareness programs should be organized to tackle this problem.

Key Words: Child Marriage, Social Evil, Disadvantages

Introduction

What is social evil? Social evils are the issues that directly or indirectly affect the members of a society and are considered a point of controversy or a problem in regards to moral values. Child marriage is also a great social evil. Marriage of children at the age of reading and writing is called child marriage. In fact, the marriage of a boy and a girl before the marriage age fixed by the government is called child marriage. In today's present scenario The Age Of A Boy And Girl Is The Boy's Age Is 21 Years And The Girl's Year Is Worth To Marry. If both are not less than this, marriage is considered a crime.

Reasons Provoking Child Marriage

1. Lack of education

People lack education that is the biggest reason because we know that education is the door to knowledge. There is a door to our understanding. When we get education, we get some senses. We learn to differentiate between right and wrong if we people have not lack of education. So, we get caught up in the wrong conservative thoughts in the wrong assumptions and get entangled in bad deeds and social evils. One reason of child marriage is also the Lack of Education. Parents do not have education. They remain ignorant of studies and they also get carried away with the practice which is going on in the society and marry their daughters at a young age. After which very bad results come out.

2. Considering the girl child as a burden by the parents-

Everyone thinks like today shows in serials etc. If couples are married then their mother says that we want a boy, not a girl. If she gets a girl, then there is a burden on her that she will have to teach and will have to get her married. If there was a boy, he would get some dowry, if there was a girl, then everything would have to be shed. This thinking is seen in our society even today. Since time immemorial, those people consider girls a burden. That's why they are in a hurry to unload the load quickly. That's why parents are in a hurry to get their girls married. So that he can quickly take off this burden. Dowry is also a reason for child marriage. In today's prosperous country, the girl who gets older and the girl becomes more educated, then she has to see a high affluent family and also has to pay a high dowry for the high affluent family. Due to which people do child marriage by keeping the children in low education in the event of not being able to give dowry. Those parents marry their girl so early that when they have to pay dowry.

3. Stereotypes thoughts-

There is a stereotype in our society that now the girl has grown up, intelligent, then marry her. This thinking encourages child marriage in India. There are many such states in India in which child marriages are done due to stereotypes. Educated states like Kerala also see the prevalence of this stereotype which leads to child marriage. Patel don't want to send his daughter in college. He has planned for his son to go abroad for studying. He is planning to stop the education of Tara further.

“CHANDAN. I don't want to go to college! (Fighting his tears.) Not without Tara! If she is going in for surgery, I'll miss a year too!

PATEL. You will not. I won't allow it.

CHANDAN. I will not go to college without Tara!

PATEL. That would make me very unhappy.” (DATTANI, 2000, pp. 351-352)

4. Not being aware of the ill effects of child marriage

There is no awareness among the people about the side effects of child marriage. They do not know what is the ill-effects of child marriage on their daughter and child. For example, due to child marriage, the couple their selves are children, but they soon become parents, they are worried about their upbringing and soon they start worrying about the upbringing of their children. Because yet they are not developed enough to handle their children, due to which they have to face huge problems like extreme poverty. Marrying the child at a young age causes mental stress to the child. Their growth stops. And they also have to face many diseases.

5. Financial condition of the family-

Poor people are weak in financial condition and they consider their daughters as a burden. So they try to get their daughter and sons married early so that they can take off their burden so that their children will be able to earn further. But they do not know that the child is not yet developed and he is going to give a lot of problems. In order to strengthen their economic condition, poor people marry off their young children early. Parents consider their children insecure that they should not fall into the wrong company and they should not be defamed, so they want to get married soon. In the same way, Shanta faced sexually extortion of her daughter. She doesn't want to see her in more trouble. So, she wants Mala to get married with Deepak in her early age.

“MAN. Shhh! Don't cry. You want to come here in your holidays, no? Then don't cry. This is your seventh birthday, no? You are seven now. Ready for a real birthday present. Lie down. Come on , quickly.

....

If they hear you they will say you are a bad girl. This is our secret. (Like an order but in a whisper.) Don't cry!” (DATTANI, COLLECTED PLAYS, 2005, p. 43)

Bad Effects of Child Marriage

1. Childhood of children is snatched

Can there be bad effects on a girl and a boy? The biggest bad effect of child marriage is that children's childhood is snatched away. Boys and girls both have childhood and the girl child's most extended childhood is snatched away, it is the age of jumping and child marriage brings a lot of stress for them.

2. Limits to Higher Education

The girl child is not able to complete her education in higher education because of early marriage. As we know people say Oh! Now you have studied a lot. Now she looks worthy for marriage, the girl starts looking young only after doing fifth to eighth. And girls are married at an early age, thereby depriving them of their higher education which in future puts the girl's future in danger. Employment opportunities for the girl keep getting closed due to low education.

3. Population Growth

When child marriage takes place, then all their relations between the boy and the girl are done, now there are capable couples in the reproductive process which are capable of giving birth to children. Having more children has a profound effect on population growth. They play an important role in increasing the population.

4. Negative Effects on Health

They are in growing age and family pressure also comes on them. The responsibility of the family comes. He gets tired after working all day. Despite having complete education, they get employment opportunities, because of this they have to work hard. Yet the mantle endures the situation. Physical and mental growth is not good.

Girls and boys are risk of diseases like AIDS and malnutrition because sexual relations are made before age. Girls soon fall under the guise of another man and have sex with them as well because they have no idea of the diseases to come. Apart from this, they become malnourished because they do not get nutrition according to that age, so some of its side effects have come from bed effect child marriage.

5. Growth in Maternal Mortality

Maternal mortality is high in child marriages because they are not mature. Girls have less ability to give birth at a young age, due to which the mother dies at the birth of the child, due to which the maternal mortality rate is high. The mother becomes a victim of malnutrition, due to which the infant mortality rate also increases.

Remedy

1. Awareness in the society

Social media is a big platform; people can make people aware in their own way. Awareness can be given in different ways. You guys should tell how great a woman becomes by studying further. Child marriage ruins their life.

2. Provide free and better education.

Good quality education should be given, not that the master is not coming, what will happen to the girl child if she does not study. She will not feel like coming to school herself, she herself will say that it is okay. There should be provision for good education for the children and there should be provision for free education for the children. A lot of facilities should be provided by the government to remove poverty so that girls can be given proper education because most of the child marriages take place in poor families. Media should also play its important role to stop child marriage. Media can make people aware that child marriage is a crime and how child marriage destroys the lives of children.

The government should take important steps to prevent child marriage and strictly follow the rules implemented by the government.

Bibliography

DATTANI, M. (2005). *COLLECTED PLAYS*. INDIA: PENGUIN BOOKS.

DATTANI, M. (2000). *COLLECTED PLAYS VOLUME I*. INDIA: PENGUIN BOOKS.

